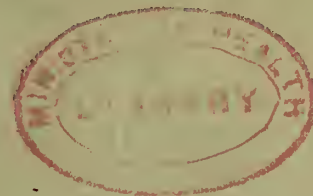


Health Department,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Durham Rural District Council.



Ladies & Gentlemen,

Annual Report for 1941.

The Ministry of Health instructs that the Annual Report for the year 1941 is to be prepared on similar lines to the two preceding ones, dealing only with the most essential and important matters.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Again it can be recorded that the health of the Durham Rural District remained satisfactory during another period of stress and difficulties. The death rate for the year was 12.02 per 1,000 population compared with 12.20 in the previous year. There was a decline in the birth-rate from 18.08 per 1,000 inhabitants in 1940 to 17.3 per 1,000 this year, but in the year 1939 this rate was 16.12. As reported in previous years, the infant mortality rate remains unsatisfactory with a figure of 73 per 1,000 live births as against 64 for the year 1940 and 68 for the year 1939. This slight increase is not surprising when the most delicate factor within vital statistics is being considered. Prematurity and pneumonia were the chief causes responsible for the large number of infant deaths, approximately 20% of the total infant deaths occurring from each.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The following is a summary of the numbers of infectious diseases notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	33
Diphtheria	25
Para-typhoid Fever	6
Pneumonia	13
Erysipelas	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3
Measles	257
Whooping Cough	76

The incidence of infectious diseases during the year was again satisfactory. Thirty-three cases of Scarlet Fever, as against 25 in the previous year, were notified. This continues to be a mild infection and no deaths occurred from this cause.

The cases of Diphtheria occurred throughout the year and from various parts of the district, no locality being specially affected. Several cases of this infection were of the acutely grave type and 3 deaths resulted from this cause.

During the year increased efforts were made in the scheme of immunisation resulting in 1,012 children being immunised. It is estimated that at the end of the year 16% of the children under 5 years of age were immunised and 49% between the ages of 5 and 15 years. These figures are not yet satisfactory and there is scope for much improvement.

Of the cases of Paratyphoid Fever 3 occurred in Bearpark and one each in Bowburn, Framwellgate Moor and Ludworth. These were mild cases and no connection among these cases could be determined.

Notifications of Measles were heaviest in the second quarter of the year and Bearpark and West Rainton were the localities mostly affected. One death was ascribed to this cause.

Whooping cough was more rife than during 1940 when 29 cases were notified. These cases occurred throughout the year and 25 of the cases were notified from Bearpark. No deaths resulted from this cause.

SANITARY INSPECTION:

Routine inspection of the district was fully attended to during the course of the year and below is given a summary of the informal notices served under the Public Health Acts:-

	Eastern District	Western District	Total
Dwelling houses:			
Foul conditions	2	1	3
Structural defects	18	21	39
Overcrowding	1	-	1
Ashpits & Privies	2	1	3
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	8	-	8
Water closets	3	2	5
House drainage	27	16	43
Water supply	13	4	17
Insufficient dustbins	1	1	2
Urinal defects	-	1	1
Caravans	-	2	2
Dangerous buildings	2	7	9
Pit shafts	-	2	2
Dirty Fish Shop	-	1	1
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 136

Cornforth Moor Sewage Works: Improvements have been made in the method of irrigating the sewage over the sewage land at these works, the sub-drainage from which is now more satisfactory than hitherto. Two new sludge drying beds have been constructed and are working satisfactorily.

Coxhoe Sewage Works (Near Brickworks): The 'Dortmund' type settlement tank at these works has been cleaned out and improvements made in irrigating the sewage over the sewage land with satisfactory results.

Coxhoe Bridge Sewage Works: Improved methods of irrigating the sewage over the sewage land have been adopted at these works resulting in a much improved effluent flowing into Coxhoe Beck.

High Pittington Sewage Works: The existing sludge drying beds have been enlarged and new beds constructed with a much improved sub-drainage.

Quarrington Hill Sewers: The main sewer from the front of Steetley Terrace to the front of the Aged Miners Homes, Quarrington Hill, having been let down by colliery subsidence for a distance of 95 yards, has been relaid and is now satisfactory

Water Supplies in the area under the control of the Durham Rural District Council have been maintained during the year. The public sewers and sewage disposal works throughout the district have received regular and frequent attention and the effluents therefrom were, in the majority of cases, satisfactory.

Privy Conversions: Sixteen privy conversions have been made by private owners during the year.

HOUSING:

During the year 18 Council houses were completed by the District Council and 11 houses were erected by private enterprise. These figures are appallingly meagre when the acute shortage of houses and the distressing living conditions of a large number of families occupying condemned or overcrowded dwellings are considered. In this respect I cannot do better than reiterate with increased emphasis an extract from the Annual Report of the preceding year

"With the ban on the building of Council houses and the continuing shortage of housing accommodation in the district, a most serious problem has developed in the continued occupation of condemned dwelling houses, where conditions are progressively deteriorating. Owners of such occupied properties, whilst continuing to receive rents, would be expected to maintain them wind and weather-proof and to ensure fairly satisfactory facilities for cooking and food-storage as a minimum. I regret to report that such expectations are generally far from satisfied"

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. FALCONER, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

OFFICE OF THE CURATOR

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1925

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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